

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Title of Publication:	Cannabis
Other Known Title:	The Story Of The Weed That Rocked The World: "Cannabis" Its Recreational, Inspirational, Medicinal, Industrial, Spiritual And Ritual Uses
Format:	Book
Director/Author:	Jonathan Green
Producer/Publisher:	Anova Books
Country of Origin:	UK
Language:	English
Applicant:	Secretary for Internal Affairs
Distributor:	Borders Ltd
Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
Descriptive Note:	Not Applicable
Display Conditions:	That when the publication is on public display, the classification given to the publication must be shown by way of a label issued in accordance with a direction under section 36A(2); and That the label must be affixed to front cover of the publication in such manner that it is visible at all times.
Date of entry in Register:	09 August 2007
Date of direction to issue a label:	07 August 2007
OFLC No:	700773

Excisions:

Not Applicable

Reasons for excisions:

Not Applicable

**Summary of reasons
for classification:**

The book entitled *Cannabis* is classified as:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Cannabis is classified as objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years because it promotes or encourages criminal acts to such an extent and degree, and in such a manner, that its unrestricted availability is likely to injure the public good.

The book *Cannabis* is produced for adults with a specific interest in a cross-cultural examination of the history and uses of cannabis as well as law reform issues. The book advocates for the legalisation of cannabis, and as a vehicle for the expression of political views in favour of cannabis law reform, the book has a legitimate purpose. It also contains some material designed to assist growers and users. The material in question is not presented in a manner that would injure the public good if the availability of the magazine is restricted to adults, who are likely to be aware of the legal consequences of cannabis use and cultivation in New Zealand.

In terms of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, a ban is neither reasonable nor demonstrably justified. However, there is a likelihood of injury arising if the publication were made available to children and young persons. Restricting the availability of *Cannabis* to adults limits the rights of New Zealanders to access reading material of their choice but, in this instance, represents the minimum interference with the freedom of expression that is consistent with preventing injury to the public good.